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حق النشر	<u>رخصة حكومة مفتوحة</u>

حول هذا السجل

ردًا على المطالبات الفارسية بأحقية السيادة على الجزر، تتناول الوثيقة وضع مجموعات الجزر التالية في الخليج العربي:

- وربة، وبوبيان، ومسكان، وفيلكا، وعوثة، وكبر، وقاروه، وأم المرادم، والتي تقع قبالة ساحل الكويت وفم شط العرب؛
- قشم، وهنجام، وجزيرة هرمز، ولارك، والشيخ شعيب [جزيرة لاوان]، وهندورابي، وكيش، وفرور (وفرور الصغرى) التي تقع قبالة الساحل الفارسي الجنوبي؛
- أرخبيل البحرين؛
- حالول، ودلما، وصير بني ياس، وصير أبو نعير، وقران، وجنة، وخراج، وخويرج.

كتبها جون جيلبرت لايتوايت من مكتب الهند.



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P. 4632/28.

Status of certain Groups of Islands in the Persian Gulf.

The recent reassertion by the Persian Government of their claim to the islands of Tamb and Abu Musa, coupled with their refusal to recognise as independent the Sheikh of Ras-al-Khaima on the Trucial Coast, or the claim of His Majesty's Government under their treaty engagements to protect the Trucial Sheikhs,* and Mr. Parr's report** as to the extreme sensitiveness of Persia at the present time about her authority in the islands, suggest the desirability of a clear understanding in connection with the deliberations of the Persian Gulf Sub-Committee as to the status of the more important islands in the Gulf other than Tamb, Little Tamb, Abu Musa and Sirri, which are dealt with in the Memorandum on page 35. The present Note, accordingly, deals with the following groups of islands:—

* Teh. tel. 259 to F.O., Aug. 23 1928.
** Teh. Desp. 353 to F.O., July 27 1928.

- (a) Warba, Bubiyan, Maskan, Failakah, Auhah, Kubbar, Qaru, Umm-el-Maradin, which lie off the coast of Koweit and the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab.
- (b) Kishm, Henjam, Ormuz, Laruk, Sheikh Shuaib, Haiderabi, Kais, Farur (and Little or Nabiyy Farur), which lie off the south Persian coast, and the position of which came under discussion before and during the war.
- (c) The Bahrein Archipelago.
- (d) Halul, Dalmah, Sir Beni Yas, Sir Abu Nair, Qran, Jinnah, Kharag, Khargu.

A.—Bubiyan, Failakah, Auhah, Kubbar, Qaru, Umm-el-Maradin.

These islands were before the war in Turkish possession. They were attributed to the administrative control of the Sheikh of Koweit in the (unratified) Anglo-Turkish Convention of 29th July 1913, and were occupied by the Sheikh on the outbreak of war with Turkey in November 1914. They were formally recognised by His Majesty's Government as forming part of His Excellency's dominions in April 1923 (see Koweit Memorandum, para. 35, on page 35).

No Persian claim to these islands can reasonably be preferred.

B.—Sheikh Shuaib, Kishm, Henjam, Ormuz, Laruk, Hinderabi, Kais, Farur, Nabiyy or Little Farur.

The status of Henjam is examined in greater detail in paras. 5 and 6 of the Memorandum on Henjam on p. 35. With the exception of Nabiyy or Little Farur, these islands appear to be indisputably Persian; and in 1914 His Majesty's Government made a formal offer to the Persian Government to lease or purchase all except Hinderabi, Kais, and Farur.† In 1918, when the renewal of this offer was under consideration, the addition of the three last-named islands to the lists to be communicated to Persia was approved.‡

† Teh. Desp. to F.O., Dec. 12 1914, P. 5068/14.
‡ F.O. tel. 157 to Teheran, Mar. 8 1918, P. 1024/18.

NABIYY FARUR.

The status of Nabiyy or Little Farur is not formally determined. The island, which is uninhabited, and lies about 10 miles south-west of the southern extremity of Farur Island, is circular in shape and about half a mile in diameter. The Persian Government were stated in 1906§ "as yet" to have paid no attention to it; the Government of India and the India Office in 1903 expressed the view that, on the analogy of Little Tamb, it should be regarded as depending from Farur, "which admittedly belonged to Persia," and the Foreign Office did not dissent from this view.

§ Lor. ii, 584.

The question was again raised in 1924 in connection with a proposal to erect a light on the island. The Political Resident then suggested that the precedent of Little Tamb was not necessarily binding on His Majesty's Government, adding: "We have precise facts that Nabiyy Farur is a barren rock, useless, and not claimed by anyone, and that in 1875 the Farur Sudanis

† Viceroy to S. of S. for L. Nov. 11 1908; L.O. to F.O., Dec. 2 1908, P. 2111.

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L.O. to F.O., Mar. 28
1924, P. 839/24.

were recognised as belonging to the Jowasim Tribe of Trucial Oman." No reference to the incident of 1875 could be traced by the India Office; but the Secretary of State for India agreed with the Government of India that it would be undesirable to start the erection of a lighthouse on the island without prior intimation to Persia, and the matter was not pursued.

It would appear therefore that there is little question that the island must be regarded as Persian, though a slight element of doubt as to a Jowasimi claim exists.

C.—The Bahrein Archipelago.

The archipelago consists of the islands of Bahrein, Muharraq, Umm Na'assan, Sitrah, and Nabi Salih, and a number of lesser islets and rocks forming part of the same compact geographical group.

The archipelago is under the rule of the Sheikh of Bahrein, and the status of Bahrein governs the status of all the other islands composing it.

D.—Farsi, Arabi, Harqus; Halul, Dalmah, Shura-awah, Sir Beni Yas, Sir Abu Nair, Qran, Jinnah, Kharag, Khargu.

The status of these islands is important, not merely because of the claims which may be urged to them by the Trucial Chiefs, to whom His Majesty's Government are under treaty obligations, but because their control is in many cases of importance in connection with the policing of the pearl banks, for which responsibility has been assumed by His Majesty's Government, and because of the possible value of certain of them in connection with an air route along the north Arabian coast.

FARSI, ARABI AND HARQUS.

Farsi is an uninhabited island about a quarter mile across, in the middle of the Gulf, about halfway between Musallamiyah Bay in Hasa and the Tangistan district in south Persia. Arabi is 15 miles south of Farsi; and Harqus, "a mere sandbank," 30 miles west of it. Oil seepages were alleged in 1914 (Engler's "Petroleum") to exist in the sea near all three islands, and Arabi carries a deposit of guano.

Lor. II, 513, 523, 642.

* L.O. to F.O., Oct. 29
1914, P. 3946.

† Tel. from S. of S.
for I. to Viceroy,
Dec. 15 1914, P.
4690.

The ownership of all three islands was stated in the Persian Gulf Gazetteer to be undetermined, Mr. Lorimer adding in the cases of Arabi and Harqus that the question had never arisen. The India Office in 1914 expressed the view,⁹ which the Foreign Office did not contest, that His Majesty's Government should eventually claim the right to deal with all three islands (as with Halul); and beacons were at the same time erected on them with the concurrence of Admiralty and Foreign Office.† No steps were, however, in fact ever taken to regularise the status of the islands, which geographically would most easily have been assigned to Kuwait.

HALUL.

‡ Lor. II, 617.

An island 1 mile in diameter, some 61 miles E.N.E. of Dohak in the Trucial Principality of El Katr, surrounded by pearl banks, and having in its neighbourhood, under the sea, an intermittent spring of bitumen.‡

§ Lor. II, 618.

In 1906 there were rumours, which proved unfounded, of German designs to acquire the island from the Porte for use as a coaling station, for which purpose the Government of India stated that it was not unsuitable. Lorimer's Political Gazetteer (1906) described the status of the island as "indeterminate; the pearl divers and fishermen both of El Katr and of Trucial Oman are in the habit of resorting to it; and, so far as can be learnt, no exclusive or preferential rights are claimed by any of the classes who use it, or by any territorial Chief."§ In 1908 the India Office, after consultation with the Viceroy, suggested to the Foreign Office that it was preferable to take no action which might lead to discussion of the status of the island, as "any assertion of rights beyond the present customary usage . . . by Arabs from Bahrein, the Trucial Coast and El Katr, might lead to claims being raised by the El Katr Sheikhs to which the Turkish Government [suzerain of Katr till 1916, since when the Sheikh has been recognised as an independent Trucial Chief] might lend their support."||

|| L.O. to F.O., Dec. 2
1908, P. 2111.



In 1913 Sir Percy Cox, then Political Resident, reported the discovery of correspondence of 1869 from which it appeared that, one of the Shatt-al-Arab buoys having gone adrift and been thrown up on Halul Island, reference was made apparently as a matter of course to the Trucial Sheikh of Abu Dhabi as overlord of the island,^{*} and in 1914 His Majesty's Government authorised† the erection of a beacon on Halul for political as distinct from navigational reasons, and, to quote the Resident, with a view to "enabling us to keep a footing there as a political precaution." (Cp. para. 10 of Memorandum on Lighting and Buoying on p. 3.)

* Pol. Res. to G. of I., Feb. 23 1913, P. 1322/13.
† Tel. to Viceroy, Mar. 4 1914, P. 834.

As in the case of Farsi, Arabi and Harqus, the India Office in 1914 recommended that His Majesty's Government should eventually claim the right to deal with Halul,‡ but no steps were in fact taken for the regularisation of its status. This accordingly remains indeterminate, the available evidence appearing to point to the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi as the owner, or failing him one of the other Arab rulers of the Trucial Coast, including the Sheikh of El Katr. There is no history of a Persian claim. The bitumen spring makes the question one of some potential importance.

‡ L.O. to F.O., Oct. 20 1914, P. 3946.

DALMAH.

An island 5 miles long and 2½ miles wide, off the coast of the Trucial Sheikhdom of Abu Dhabi, close to several pearl banks, and of importance in the pearling season. The Government of India and the India Office agreed in 1908 that the island was undoubtedly under the Trucial Sheikh of Abu Dhabi.§

§ L.O. to F.O., Dec. 2 1908, P. 2111.

SIR BENI YAS.

An island rather over 100 miles W. by S. of Abu Dhabi Town, 18 miles E.S.E. of Dalmah Island, and 4 or 5 miles north of the coast of Dhafrah; described by Lorimer as forming with the islands of Zirko, Arzanah, Daiyinah, Qarnain, Solali, and Das,|| part of the domains of the Trucial Sheikh of Abu Dhabi. All the islands in question are in the vicinity of pearl banks.

|| Lor. ii, 177, 361, 465, 1484, 1651, 1931, 1945.

There is no history of a rival claim. The island is of importance as affording "an ideal aerodrome, good anchorage . . . a good cold weather . . . certainly the best harbour at present existing in the Gulf,"¶ and Sir Lionel Haworth has suggested that it should be purchased from the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi for about £3,000, or alternatively leased, in connection with an air route along the north Arab coast.**

¶ Desp. 123 S. from Pol. Res. to G. of I., April 24 1927, para. 18-20.
** Desp. 53 S. to G. of I., Feb. 19 1927, P. 1575.

SHURA-AWAH.

A very small island in the neighbourhood of two pearl banks, lying in the bay between Abu Dhabi and Qatar, about 34 miles N. by W. of Dalmah. Its political position is described by Lorimer as apparently "indeterminate, resembling that of Halul Island."††

†† Lor. ii, 1815.

SIR ABU NAIR.

An island, not permanently inhabited, 2½ miles long by 2 miles broad, about 50 miles N. by W. of the Trucial Arab town of Abu Dhabi, and 65 miles west of Dibai; containing salt deposits, alleged to contain deposits of sulphur, and in the neighbourhood of pearl banks.†††

††† Lor. ii, 1292.

On the occasion of the Persian attempt on Tamb and Abu Musa in 1904, the Sheikh of Shargah represented to the Political Resident that "the British Government are aware of the fact that the islands of Tamb, Abu Musa, and Sir (meaning Sir Abu Nair)" belonged to him.§§ The salt in the island was stated in the Persian Gulf Gazetteer||| to have been "removed by Persians, chiefly from Lingah and Kung, on payment of dues to the Sheikh of Shargah" until "some two years ago" (say 1904). The India Office in 1908 accepted Mr. Lorimer's view, as expressed in the Gazetteer, that the island belonged to the Sheikh of Shargah,¶¶ and in 1913, on the suggestion of Sir Percy Cox, the statement in the "Persian Gulf Pilot" that the island "is claimed by the Al Jowasim Chief" was replaced by the words "belongs to the principality of Shargah."***

§§ Pol. Res. to G. of I., April 15 1904.
||| Lor. ii, 1292.

¶¶ L.O. to F.O., Dec. 2 1908, 2111/08.
*** Letter from Pol. Res. to G. of I., Feb. 23 1913, P. 1319/13.

QRAN OR KHAN.

An island off the coast of Hasa, some 36 miles N.E. of Ras-al-Bidya,†††† about 1½ miles long, by ½ mile wide, waterless, level, covered with brushwood,

†††† Lor. ii, 1363.



"وضع مجموعات معينة من الجزر في الخليج الفارسي" [٣٩ ظ] (٤/٤)

4

a few feet above sea level, with anchorage in 8 fathoms (sand) about half a mile from the island, frequented by fishermen from Musallamiyah and Jinnah Islands in Hasa, from Hadd in Bahrein, and possibly from Kharag (Persian). Ownership described by Lorimer as apparently indeterminate.

* Desp. to G. of L.
Feb. 19 1927.
para. 5.

Its occupation has been recommended by the Political Resident as a *pis aller* to Jinnah in connection with an air route along the north Arab coast.*

JINNAH.

An island 1½ miles long, a mile off the coast of Hasa, formerly Turkish, and now in the dominions of Ibn Saud. Abundant fresh water. Examination with a view to lease in connection with a north Arabian coast air route recommended by Political Resident in 1927.†

† Desp. to G. of L.
Feb. 19 1927.

KHARAG.

An important island 34 miles W.N.W. of Bushire, over 4 miles long and on an average 2 miles wide, in the vicinity of a number of pearl banks. Appears to be indisputably Persian,‡ and a Persian Customs official has for some years been stationed there. It was occupied by Indian forces from 1838-42, and again in 1856-7.||

‡ Lor. II, 1919-21.

|| Lor. I, 1905, 2070.

KHARGU.

Two and a half miles north of Kharag, is barren and uninhabited. No reference to its ownership is made by Lorimer.§

§ Lor. II, 1922.

INDIA OFFICE,
27th August 1928.

J. G. L.